

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00
INRE-00 SSM-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
HA-05 AID-05 /121 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAP'R
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----083885 230457Z /17

O 222348Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC 0327
DOD WASHDC
CIA WASHDC 0377
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0294

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 22, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 22, 1978. FYI ONLY,
SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

MR. RESTON: WE OBVIOUSLY WELCOME THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
DATE BY WHICH ISRAEL WILL COMPLETE ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM
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LEBANON.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTED SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425, WHICH CALLS FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL,
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN
ORDER TO RESTORE PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA, AND
RESTORATION OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY OVER SOUTHERN
LEBANON.

WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE UN
FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED AND PUT INTO PLACE, AND WITH THE
EFFECTIVENESS IT HAS DEMONSTRATED. WE BELIEVE IT IS
IMPORTANT TO IMPLEMENT ALL ELEMENTS OF SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 425 SO THAT LEBANESE AUTHORITY OVER THE AREA
CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE ALSO BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARTIES SUPPORT THE
PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE.

FROM THE OUTSET OF THIS WHOLE THING, THE ISRAELIS HAVE
SAID THAT THEY DID NOT INTEND TO REMAIN IN SOUTHERN
LEBANON AND ASSURED US AND THE UNITED NATIONS THAT THEY

WOULD COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 425 IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.
AND MAY I ADD THAT WHEN PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WAS HERE
IN WASHINGTON, HE ASSURED SECRETARY VANCE THAT AT THE
FIRST POSSIBLE CABINET MEETING THE ISRAELI CABINET WOULD
ADDRESS ITSELF TO THIS QUESTION OF A FINAL DATE FOR
WITHDRAWAL; AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT THE ISRAELI
CABINET HAS NOW DONE.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THAT FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT, HAVE WE
RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATION FROM ISRAEL IN RESPONSE TO
THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE POSED TO MR. DAYAN AND MR. BEGIN
WHEN THEY WERE HERE?

A. NO, WE HAVE NOT. AND LET ME SAY THERE IS NO TIME
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DEADLINE, IN OUR VIEW, ON GETTING THOSE ANSWERS BACK.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE EGYPTIAN ELECTIONS?

A. NO. THAT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER TO EGYPT, AND I
DONT HAVE ANYTHING. VANCE

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NNN

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